rt. 12, frederick, md. 21701
12/11/76

dear michel,

while i was reading a transcript of the new congressional committee this morning something occured to me. it is of this that i write, with apologies for the typing that is worse because of the temporary tendon trouble in the right arm.

there are going to be broadcasts, radio and tv, relevant to this investigation. i will be interested in them. it seems possible that you also may be until you have completed your project, perhaps later in a follow-up.

i am equipped to tape off the air with an am/fm receiver/recorder. it is. however, quite old, has had much use and the quality is not good.

i have been intending to replace this piece of equipment when i could improve the quality at a reasonable cost. i learned that better machines are available when a friend returned from the orient with one. his happens to be a hitachi, all wave (a feature i do not particularly need) and of superior quality, with a meter for tuning sharply, etc.

one hears that prices abroad are lower than they are here. you also can draw upon technicians for advice as i cannot. so, if it is not too much trouble for you and if there is a saving from purchase in ffance i would appreciate it very much if when you return with your equipment that in any event will occupy space you could bring me such a machine for which, of course, i would pay you.

now i can tape from tv also. i have a patch cord attached to the speaker, with a plug for the recorder. when i want to tape from tv i plug it in. otherwise these machines are made for built-in recording from the built-in radio. i presume all such machines are made so that this cord can be plugged into the microphone jack or another one which some have.

if you can do this, either obtain a better machine or save me money or both, my need is not for good room quality. i would never use it as a radio for music. it would be for voice only and almost without exception for taping the voice as broadcast. on the other hand, if better music quality does not involve a large increase in either size or cost i might tape some programs of the kind i like because they are not generally available. from my youth i have been fond of what is called dixieland or old-fashioned jazz. the records, old 78s, are no longer on the market, at least not here. you may or may not remember the hot club of france. they were great! at 5:30 each morning a university fm station i receive plays this kind of music. it is always the background to my day's beginning. i am always working by then, this morning 1 1/2 hrs. earlier.

size or rather space is a consideration. i would want the smallest decent one. origin is immaterial, although i am familiar with the japanese machines only. i take it that today they all work on current and batteries. we have 110-117 v. ac., not 220.

now please do not make a production out of this or go to any real trouble over it. if your technical people can make a recommendation and if it is no trouble for you and if there is a saving for me only would i want you to consider this. i can make out with what i have and with its lowered quality and poorer dubs. if you should want a tape of air quality, however, i could not give it to you now. i have in mind not only the possible airing of committee hearings but the sppearances on the public-affairs shows of committee members, staff or witnesses, etc. there will not be much of this until about the time you return. the committee is not doing anything spectacular and most air time will be taken up with the change in administrations.

sorry you made the wrong turn just before you got here. hope your trip back was uneventful. we look forward to your return and all that with it can be possible.

sincerely,